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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

# Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/052,585

**Applicant(s)**

NEWMAN ET AL.

**Examiner**

TRISHA VU

**Art Unit**

2111

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 September 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-946)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SE/US)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This Office Action is responsive to Applicant's amendment filed 09/26/2008. Applicant currently amended claims 1, 11 and 20.
2. Claims 1-28 are presented for examination.
3. Claims 1, 11 and 20 are independent claims.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hanson (U.S. Patent 6,148,346).

Regarding claims 1, 11 and 20, Hanson teaches a system and a method comprising:

a plurality of devices (Fig. 1), wherein devices within the plurality of devices communicate with incompatible protocols (devices of various types and operating systems, col. 2 lines 7-28);

a first device (e.g. peripheral device 56, Fig. 2) in the plurality of devices having a universal contextual interface (device driver 42 located on each of the components illustrated in Fig. 1, note col. 4 lines 10-20 and Fig. 2), wherein the universal contextual interface is implemented in Java (col. 3 lines 37-41); wherein the universal contextual interface comprises

instructions that are particular to the first device (i.e. Java applets/codes, col. 4 lines 58-65), wherein the instructions can:

be understood and performed by the plurality of devices to enable the plurality of devices (e.g. understood by any host computer system, Fig. 1 and col. 3 lines 14-30) to communicate and transfer contextual data with the first device (col. 4 lines 58-65 and col. 8 lines 16-29);

provide event notifications to the plurality of devices with respect to changes in contextual data for the first device (e.g. changes in status, user statistics, etc., col. 5 lines 23-43 and col. 6 lines 45-52); and

enable the plurality of devices to receive user interfaces (e.g. GUI objects 52) allow users of the plurality of devices to view changed contextual data or enable the plurality of devices to receive data from the first device (col. 4 lines 46-67); and

wherein contextual data includes information with respect to the first device including type (e.g. printer type, make and model, Figs. 3 and 5, col. 4 lines 52-57, col. 7 lines 20-25 and 55-61), owner (e.g. make and model information, recent user, col. 6 lines 46-52 and col. 7 lines 20-25), history of use (e.g. name of the person and pages printed in the last ten episodes, col. 6 lines 46-52), whether the first device is currently in use (e.g. printer idle, current status, col. 5 lines 33-36), other operating status information (e.g. needs paper, paper jam, etc., col. 5 lines 33-36), identity (e.g. manufacture/model or any printer specific information such as formatting requirements, emulations, resolutions, print speed, etc., Fig. 5), location on network (e.g. location on a particular LAN network, Fig. 5), administrative domain (e.g. Administrative

menu, Figs. 8A and 8G), information with respect to one or more users of the first device (e.g. recent users, Fig. 8E) or files stored at the first device (e.g. the driver data itself stored at the printer, col. 4 lines 10-20); and

a second device (a host computer, Figs. 1-2) in the plurality of devices that invokes the universal contextual interface of the first device by executing the instructions to transfer the contextual data associated with the first device (e.g. executing GUI objects, Fig. 9 and col. 8 line 16 et seq.) between the first device and at least one of the other devices in the plurality of devices, the plurality of devices having no prior knowledge of each other (col. 4 lines 21-57);

wherein the universal contextual interface is directly invoked by the second device to allow the contextual data to be transferred to the second device (transferred to the host computer, col. 8 line 16 et seq.);

wherein the second device registers as a listener with the first device through a notification interface of the first device (through the generated GUI) to receive event notifications with respect to changes in the contextual data associated with the first device (Figs. 6-8); and

wherein the universal contextual interface allows components using different operating systems, communication protocols, file formats, and data types to transfer context information between each other without requiring the components to use domain-specific interfaces, protocols, or data format (note that the dynamic device driver 42 implemented in object oriented language Java allows devices of different operating systems, protocols, file formats and data types communicate with each other, col. 1 lines 44-50 and col. 4 lines 10-35 and 58-67).

As for claims 2, 12 and 21, Hanson teaches wherein the at least one of the plurality of devices comprises the second device (col. 8 line 16 et seq.).

As for claims 3, 13 and 22, Hanson teaches wherein the first device sends a context object to the second device to be used by the second device to transfer the contextual data (col. 8 line 16 et seq.)

As for claim 4, Hanson teaches wherein the second device receives a context object from the first device to be used by the at least one of the plurality of devices for receiving contextual data transmitted from the first device (col. 8 line 16 et seq.).

As for claims 5, 14 and 23, Hanson teaches wherein the at least one of the plurality of devices uses the contextual data as a criteria to authorize the first device or the second device to access instructions, data or operations associated with the at least one of the plurality of devices (e.g. accessing printer status, emulation, set-up, admin menu, etc.. col. 5 lines 23-43).

As for claims 6, 15 and 24, Hanson teaches wherein the universal contextual interface or a context object have source-specific, object-oriented mobile code that can be understood and performed by the at least one of the plurality of devices to receive contextual data (Java, col. 4 line 58 to col. 5 line 12).

As for claims 7, 16 and 25, Hanson teaches wherein the plurality of devices comprise at least one device, at least one software application or at least one file (col. 4 lines 21-67).

As for claims 8, 17 and 26, Hanson teaches wherein the first device further comprises a historical database having at least one record of data (e.g. statistics data) provided by the second device during invocation of the universal contextual interface (Fig. 8E).

As for claims 9, 18 and 27, Hanson teaches wherein the second device invokes a universal notification interface to register the at least one of the plurality of devices to receive an event notification each time the contextual data changes (through the menu options shown in Figs. 6-8).

As for claims 10, 19 and 28, Hanson teaches wherein the contextual data comprises executable computer language instructions, or a type, operating status, identity, location, administrative domain or environment information of at least one of the plurality of devices (col. 5 lines 23-43).

### **Response to Arguments**

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to the newly added limitations into independent claims 1, 11 and 20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TRISHA VU whose telephone number is (571)272-3643. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur and alternate Fri 8:00am - 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart can be reached on 571-272-3632. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Trisha Vu/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2111

/Glenn A. Auve/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2111